Sale of Scindia's Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. to Non-Resident Indians

4009. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) where some Non-Resident Indians, based in New York have proposed to purchase Scindia's Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. which has been running at a loss;

(b) whether the said proposal has been accepted by Government and the company; and

(c) if so, when the said company is proposed to be sold, so as to recover the money due to Government and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was not accepted by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of trainer aircraft for pilots training scheme in Haryana

4010. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to inadequate advanced trainer aircraft, Haryana's pilot training scheme has been virtually closed down;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had assured the Haryana Government of the supply of Cessna-12 trainer aircrafts as far back as 1983, but these are yet to be supplied and the budgetary provision made in this regard lapse every year; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps contemplated by Government to provide adequate number of advanced trainer aircrafts to Haryana's Flying Clubs for pilot training scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) It is not a fact, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. No such assurance was given.

(c) Does not arise.

Improvement in the National Highways

4011. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the paper on the Modernisation of Indian Roads, presented at a Seminar on Cement Concrete Roads which was held in Delhi under the aegis of the Cement Manufacturing Association, highlighting the serious deficiencies in the National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any critical analysis of the study;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any long term/short term programme to remove the deficiencies in the National Highways; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and is being achieved by formulating Five Year and Annual Plans keeping in view the availability of resources.

Repair of farm aircraft

4012. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of farm aircraft acquired by Government from HAL, so far, and what is the expenditure involved;

(b) what is the number of the farm aircraft which have been grounded for want of repairs, stating the period for which the aircaft have been grounded and the reasons for delay in carrying out the repairs; and